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## History Of The Newville Foundry

The first mention of any foundry work in Newville is found in the 1860 Census for Newville Township which listed William Gibson (listed as William Coburn by mistake), 27 years of age, as a moulder. The business directory for Vienna, shown on the 1863 Map of DeKalb County, lists Wm Gibson, proprietor of foundry. Newville was originally named Vienna, but since there was also a Vienna located in Scott County the name was later changed to Newville. The 1870 Manufacturing Census for Newville Township listed Gibson and Miller as operating a foundry and a blacksmith shop. The foundry had a 6 horse power steam engine, a furnace and a cupola. The capital investment was valued at \$6,000. The foundry was active 6 month of the years and employed 2 to 3 men. Annual wages for the foundry was \$1,200. The foundry used 65 tons of coal valued at \$375, 6 tons of pig iron valued at \$240 and 210 tons of scrap iron valued at \$1,000. The foundry produced plow castings valued at \$2,400, 1,500 points (possibly plow points) valued at \$700 and 40 tons of job work valued at \$300. The blacksmith shop had a capital investment value of \$200, employed 1 person and was active 12 month of the year. Annual wages were \$600. The blacksmith shop did horse shoeing and custom work. The 1870 Census for Newville Township listed William Gibson 38 years of age as a moulder, John N. Miller 55 years of age as a moulder and John E. Miller 29 years of age as a plow moulder. In addition to Gibson and Miller's blacksmith shop, the 1870 Manufacturing Census also listed blacksmith shops for George Headley and George Porter. Both shops had one employee each. The 1870 Census for Newville Township lists the following blacksmiths George Headley 38 years of age, George W. Porter 38 years of age and Charles Demoss 40 years of age. Most likely Charles Demoss was employed at Gibson and Miller's blacksmith shop.

About 1870 the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad was proposing to construct a line running across Ohio and into Indiana. This line, running through Defiance County Ohio was originally planned to run through Newville. Alfred P. Edgerton, feeling the town of Hicksville, Ohio needed the railroad to grow, used his influence and offered much of the right of way across Defiance County. On Aug. 13, 1874 the first train went through Hicksville. With the railroad having passed Newville, William Gibson moved his foundry operation to Hicksville, Ohio about 1874.

The 1880 Manufacturing Census for Newville Township lists William Gibson still operating his foundry in Newville. The capital investment value was \$275. The foundry was active 9 month of the year with 3 employees and \$290 annual wages. The foundry used \$700 of material and produced \$1,990 of products. Alonzo Gibson, 43 years of age, is shown in the 1880 Census of Newville, his occupation was listed as works in foundry. No other people were listed with an occupation related to the foundry. Alonzo Gibson is Lawrence M. Gibson, brother of William. By 1880 William Gibson was living in Hicksville, Ohio. He listed his occupation as foundryman in the census. Also listed in William's household was C. S. Harvy, 40 years of age, moulder. The 1880 Atlas of DeKalb County shows the foundry being located on lots 85 and 96 next to the St. Joe River.

Comparing the 1870 and 1880 Manufacturing Census, it is obvious that by 1880 the foundry operation was nearly shut down. No mention of the Newville Foundry is found in the 1885 History of DeKalb County.

As William Gibson continued his foundry operation in Hicksville, Ohio several interesting items were found in The News, Hicksville's newspaper. On March 9, 1882







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The News reported that The Hicksville Foundry, William Gibson proprietor was located at the corner of Arthur and Bryan streets. The foundry was turning out Curtis Iron Beam Points, Bryan #2 and Bryan #12 repair, Defiance Clipper Points and the Self Sharpener. On April 20, 1882 The News reported that Henry Neer had purchased the foundry of Wm H. Gibson. On May 11, 1882 The News reported that Henry Neer was erecting a building 22 x 45 for the foundry. On July 13, 1882 The News reported that unique shaped cake pans, fish, etc. were manufactured at the Neer Foundry.

The 1880 Atlas of DeKalb County shows the foundry to be located on lots 85 and 96 next to the St. Joe River. A search of the land deeds recorded in the Record's Office in Auburn provided the following information. On October 19, 1847 William Hall and his wife Mary sold to Ariel Walden an undivided half of lot 85 in Vienna for \$100. On June 5, 1848 William Hall and wife Mary sold the other undivided ½ of lot 85 in Vienna for \$75. This deed also states that a shingle machine was situated on lot 85. On June 15, 1850 Ariel Walden sold to John N. Miller lot number 85 in Vienna with building and horse-power for \$125. The horse-power probably refers to either a water wheel or steam engine used to operate the shingle machine. On January 10, 1851 Henry Saunders and his wife Mary sold to John N. Miller lot number 84 in Vienna for \$40. On June 2, 1857 Asa Overocker and Sylvy sold to John N. Miller and Guy S. Walden a parcel of land in Vienna bounded by the state road, land owned by Charles Moody, the St. Joe River and land owned by John N. Miller. On September 13, 1859 John N. Miller and his wife Almira sold to Jane Gibson lot number 84 in Vienna for \$50. Again on September 13, 1859 John N. Miller and his wife Almira with Guy Walden and his wife Olive sold to William Gibson lot number 96 and the north part of lot number 97 in Vienna for \$50. Again on September 13, 1859 John N. Miller and his wife Almira sold to William Gibson and James Gibson lot number 85 in Vienna for \$50. One Feb. 11, 1860 Gardner G. Melendy and his wife Hannah Malinda sold to William Gibson lot number 107 and a wedge shaped parcel on the south side of lot number 107 in Vienna for \$45.

### The People Of The Newville Foundry

**William Gibson**, son of James and Jane (Marshall) Gibson, was born on May 6, 1833 at Oliver Parish in Scotland. Probably about 1842 James Gibson and family moved to Glasgow, Scotland where they remained about one year. About 1843 they immigrated to the United States and settled in Summit County, Ohio near Akron. In 1849 they moved to DeKalb County, Indiana. The 1850 census shows James and family living in Wilmington Township. James' occupation was that of a farmer.

William married Amelia Vandas Pierce on September 7, 1856 per William's obituary or September 10, 1857 per the abstracted marriage records of Defiance County, Ohio. Amelia was the daughter of William G. and Ada (Rice) Pierce, she was born in 1838. Their children were Orlando M. born about 1859 and Ada born about 1864.

William served in the Civil War. His military grave stone in the Forest Home Cemetery shows that he was a member of Company E of the 21<sup>st</sup> Ohio Infantry.

William died on April 22, 1910 at Hicksville, Ohio. He is buried in Section 6, Row 3 of the Forest Home Cemetery in Hicksville. He was survived by his wife, one son, one daughter, one brother, one sister and three grandchildren.







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**Lawrence M. Gibson**, son of James and Jane (Marshall) Gibson was born in September of 1842 in Scotland. He first married Mary Heinley. Mary was born in 1842 in Ohio and died in 1881. Lawrence remarried to Nellie N. Keesberry. Nellie was born in October of 1873 and died on September 5, 1924. Lawrence and Mary's children were Erastus born about 1858, Pluma born about 1861, Eva born about 1864 and Myrtle born in 1869. Lawrence and Nellie had one daughter, Violet L. born in February of 1899. Lawrence died on Feb. 10, 1913 in Newville Township. Lawrence and Mary are buried in the Newville Burying Grounds in Newville. Nellie is buried in the Riverview Cemetery in Newville.

Lawrence was mustered into Company H of the 88<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry on August 29, 1862 and was transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps on Jan. 15, 1864. He was a member of the William Hacker Masonic Lodge at Newville (Lodge No. 326).

**Henry Neer** was born in 1861 and died in 1923. His wife Delia was born in 1862 and died in 1928. They are buried in the New Section A, Row 15 (N S) of the Forest Home Cemetery in Hicksville.

The 1880 census for Hicksville, Ohio finds Henry Neer, 19 years of age, occupation barber, in the household of Eugene Wort occupation barber. In 1880 Orlando M. Gibson, son of William Gibson, was living with his parents in Hicksville and his occupation was also a barber. The birth records of Defiance County, Ohio shows that a daughter was born in Hicksville Township on May 7, 1884 to Henry and Adda (Gibson) Neer. Further research is needed, but it is possibly that Henry Neer was a son-in-law of William Gibson.

**John N. Miller** was born about August 16, 1814 in Connecticut. His second wife was Almira Walden and they were married on August 1, 1846 in DeKalb County, Indiana. Almira, probably a daughter of Arial and Almira Walden, was born about Sept. 7, 1823 and died June 27, 1870. John married a third to Mary. By John's first marriage he appears to have had a son John E. born about 1840/1. John and Almira's children were Warren N. born about 1849/50, Walter K. born about 1851/2, Amanda born about 1853, James B. born about 1856/8, Benson born about 1859 and Marshall born about 1864. John and Mary had one child Reuben born about 1876. John died on Jan. 31, 1882 and was buried in the Newville Burying Grounds beside his wife Almira.

John N. Miller was an early settler of Wilmington Township in DeKalb County. By 1858/9 he owned and occupied the old frame, which at quite an early date, J. O. P. Sherlock had kept a tavern, at the Foundry in Auburn. The 1860 Manufacturing Census for Union Township shows John N. Miller with a foundry. The capital investment value of the foundry was \$2,000. The foundry used \$500 of pig iron, \$100 of coal and produced \$1,800 of castings. The 1860 Census on Union Township shows John's occupation as moulder. John was sheriff of DeKalb County from 1862 to 1864. As sited early, John was in Newville Township for the 1870 census. The 1880 census finds John living in Delaware Township, Defiance County, Ohio, his occupation was a farmer.

**John E. Miller**, probably the son of John N. Miller, was born about 1841 in Ohio. He married Barbara A. and she was born about 1842 in Ohio. Their children were







## **History Of The Newville Foundry**

William F. born about 1865, George J. born about 1869, Mary P. born about 1872,  
Martha P. born about 1872 and Adrian born about 1877.

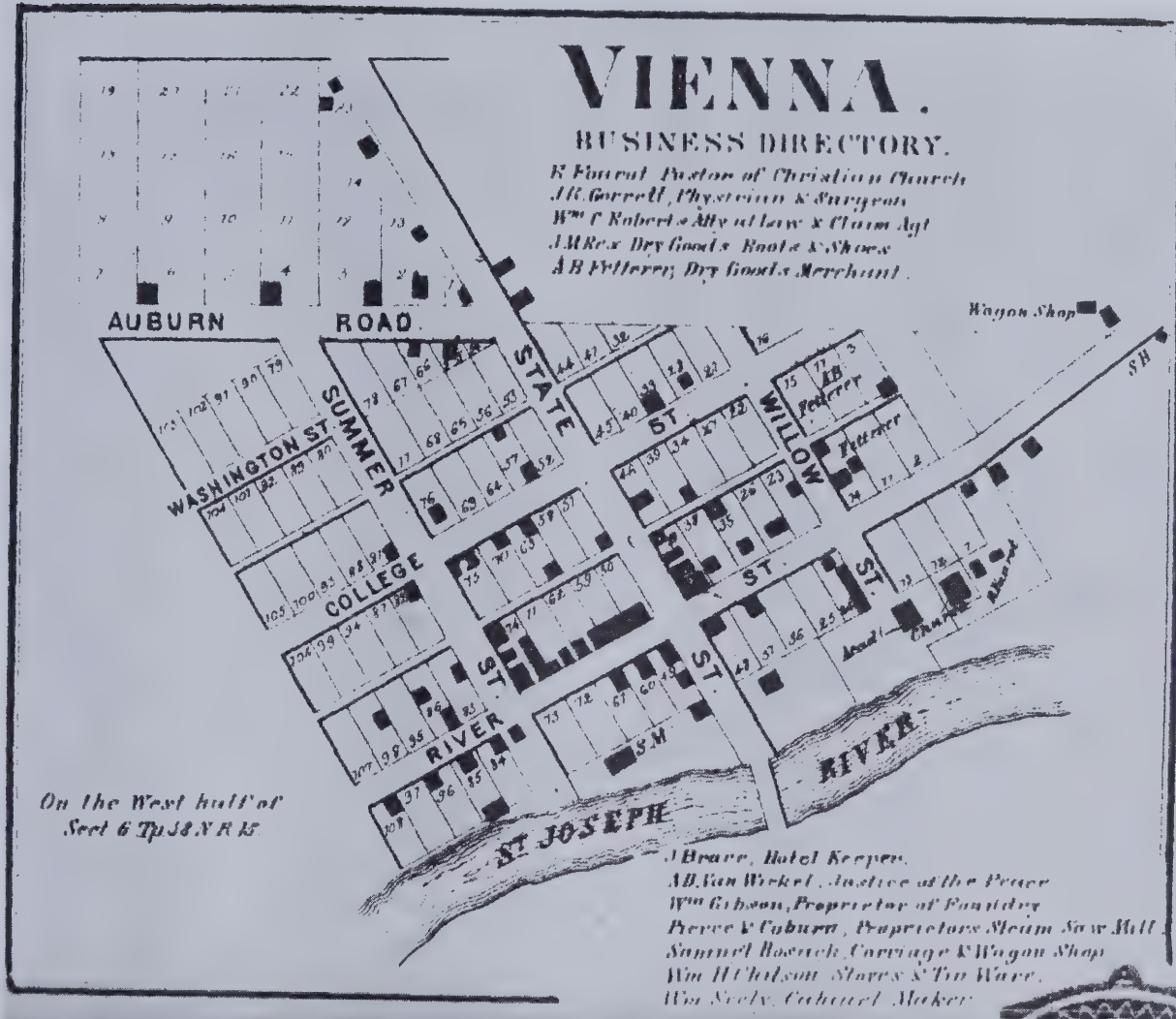






# History Of The Newville Foundry

Newville, Indiana 1863







## Newville, Indiana 1880







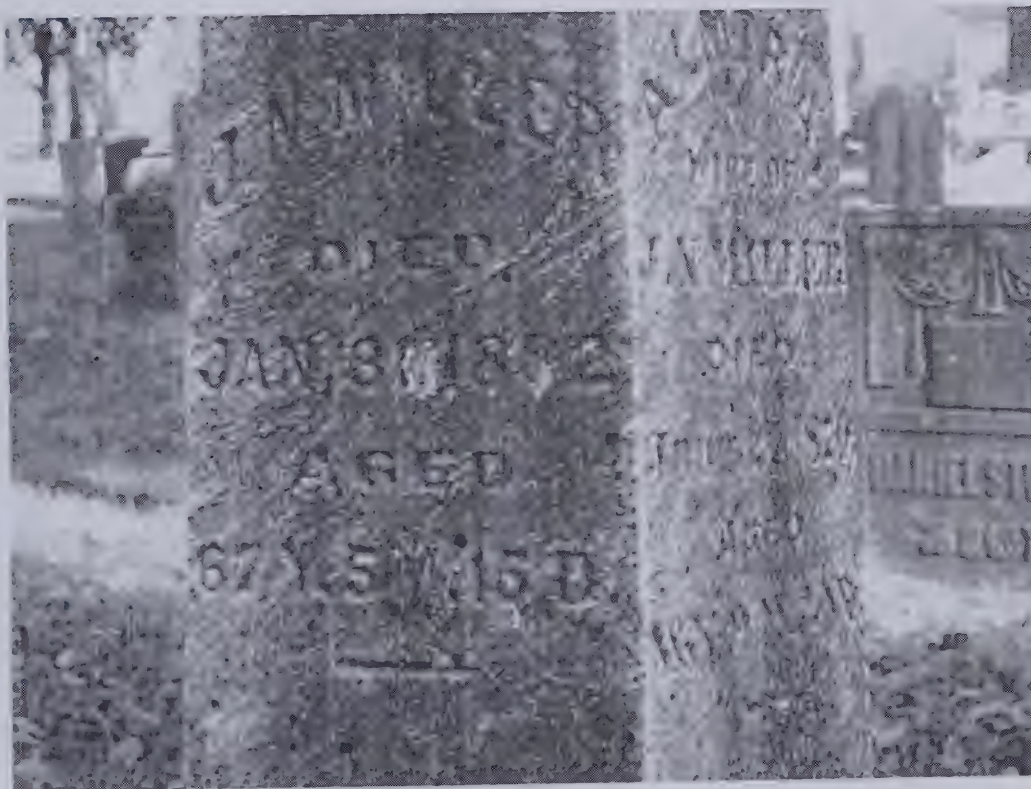
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